

Adams House
1801 Park Rd.
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-469

HABS
DC,
WASH,
383 -

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HABS
DC,
WASH,
383-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ADAMS HOUSE * HABS No. DC-469

- Location: 1801 Park Road, N.W.. Washington, District of Columbia
- Significance: The Adams House, located in the Mount Pleasant Historic District, is among the finest surviving suburban single-family detached houses from the turn of the century in Washington.
- Description: Standing on a large, landscaped corner lot, the Adams House is a focal point in the neighborhood and a local landmark. The two-story white clapboard house has a steep roof with a balustraded deck at the top. The three-bay facade is symmetrical, with the major design emphasis on the center bay. At this bay giant-order paired Ionic columns support the prominent portico above the entrance to the house. A small oval window adds decorative interest to the pediment of the portico. The porch under the portico extends out to a balustraded terrace that runs across the width of the house. Small, one-story porches echoing the Ionic motif of the portico occur on the sides of the house, which are less formally treated than the front facade. The center bay of the facade has been divided into horizontal bands by a heavy, shallow balcony with turned balusters, supported by scroll brackets, that runs across the bay above the front door. At the first floor, a large panelled door flanked by sidelights serves as the entrance into the house. At the second floor, behind the balcony, a four-part window repeats the rhythm of the first floor door. The fenestration on the Adams House includes bay windows, paired windows, and two dormers in each slope of the roof. All of the windows are simply treated. The lot is contained within a brick retaining wall that is periodically interrupted by piers with ball finials.
- History: Frederic Bennett Pyle designed the Colonial Revival house at 1801 Park Road, N.W., in 1903. Pyle settled in Washington in 1891, after serving an apprenticeship with Philadelphia architect T. P. Chandler. By 1903 he had firmly established himself as a residential architect and had been elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Pyle's designs reflected the eclecticism of turn-of-the-century architecture; the Colonial Revival was but one stylistic facet of Pyle's production. He also designed Shingle Style, Flemish Revival, Spanish Renaissance/Baroque, and Mission Style buildings. Pyle's designs include those for the Evans Building on New York Avenue, the Jordanian Embassy on Wyoming Street, N.W., the original Hecht Company store on Seventh Street, and many houses in Mount Pleasant and

Cleveland Park. Byron Adams, a successful print shop business owner, commissioned Pyle to design his home. The Byron S. Adams Printing Shop which is still in business today, was the source of Mr. Adams' upper middle class income. He was also a member of the Washington Board of Trade and a director of the Federal National Bank.

Source: Prepared by Caroline H. Russell from National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1990.